

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midwestern Governors Host Regional Summit to Combat Meth Abuse

Washington D.C. – The Midwestern Governor Association is proud to announce the MGA Regional Meth Summit in Indianapolis on December 13-15. This summit is being hosted by Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. of Indiana and is being held in coordination with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

This summit will allow Midwestern governors and key state decision makers to come together to discuss their experiences and innovative approaches to combating meth. Participants will also hear from congressional leaders, national and regional experts, and will have the opportunity to tour the "G" block of the Miami Correctional Facility which is a 240 bed meth treatment center. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt and Mr. John P. Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy have been invited to address the conference. A governor's round table discussion focused on state best practices is also scheduled. "This summit is a great opportunity for Midwestern Governors and their staffs to come together to share experiences and learn new approaches to fighting meth abuse," said Jesse Heier, MGA Washington D.C. Director.

Meth use and production is a significant and complex problem in the Midwest. According to a 2004 Drug Enforcement Agency Study, over 50 percent of all meth lab incidents in the United States occurred in the Midwest alone.

"Meth addiction is one of the steepest, most slippery slopes in our society and too many are hitting rock bottom because of meth," said Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty MGA vice chair.

Midwestern Governors have long been the leaders in combating meth with unique and innovative legislation and programs. "Methamphetamine not only destroys the lives of users, but it can pose huge dangers to families and entire communities where it is manufactured and used," said Gov. Rod Blagojevich, MGA chair. "We're marshaling our resources and are committed to combating this problem through innovative legislation and initiatives."

The MGA is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together top state leaders to work cooperatively on public policy issues of significance to the Midwestern region. The members of the association include the governors of the following Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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